Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

6 December 2017

English only

2017 Meeting
Geneva, 4-8 December 2017
Item 7 of the provisional agenda
Progress with universalization of the Convention

Report on universalization activities

Submitted by the Chairperson

Addendum

The following additional information has been received for section II of document BWC/MSP/2017/3.

II. Activities to promote universalization

1. From 18 to 26 October 2017, on the margins of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the Chairman held a number of bilateral meetings with representatives of the following States not party and Signatory States: Tanzania, Haiti, Namibia, and Tuvalu. Further details on each bilateral meeting will be found below. During his trip to New York, the Chairman gave priority to States that are reported to be close to joining the Convention.

2. On 24 November 2017, the Chairman addressed a letter to all Permanent Representatives of the States not party and signatory States to the BWC based in Geneva and in New York to encourage them to join the Convention as well as to request further information on their potential ratification, accession or succession to the BWC.

3. The United States of America reported having engaged in discussions with representatives from Haiti, Tanzania and Niue regarding BWC universalization throughout 2017.

4. The following additional information has been received for section IV of document BWC/MSP/2017/3.

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IV. Signatories

Central African Republic

5. Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) informed the ISU that PGA Member Hon. Emilie Béatrice Epaye urged the government of the Central African Republic to ratify the BWC without further delay.

Haiti

6. On 19 October 2017, on the margins of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Ambassador Denis Regis, Permanent Representative of Haiti in New York and Mr. Jean Baptiste Reynold Leroy, Deputy Permanent Representative of Haiti, in order to promote the BWC and to encourage Haiti to ratify the Convention. The Chairman sought further information on the progress of ratification. The Permanent Representative and his Deputy confirmed that they had contacted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding BWC ratification and that it was on the agenda of the parliament. They added that the dossier could be approved by the parliament in the near future. In early 2017, Haiti requested the organisation of a BWC universalization workshop in the framework of the EU Council Decision 2016/51 (Project 1) in support of the BWC. In October 2017, following an exchange between UNODA and Haitian Ministry officials regarding a potential date for the organisation of the workshop, UNODA proposed February 2018. The ISU and UNODA are currently awaiting confirmation from the Haitian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding a potential date.

United Republic of Tanzania

7. On 26 October 2017, on the margins of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Ambassador Jonathan Mero, Permanent Representative of Tanzania in New York, in order to promote the BWC and to encourage Tanzania to ratify the Convention. The representative of Tanzania described the enhanced scrutiny demanded by the Parliament of all future international legal commitments, which could have explained the gap in action since the 2010 submission of the ratification dossier to the Cabinet.

8. The following additional information has been received for section V of document BWC/MSP/2017/3

V. States neither signed nor ratified

Israel

9. On 30 November 2017, following the letter dated 24 November 2017 sent by the Chairman to all States not party to the BWC to encourage them to consider joining the Convention, a response letter from Israel was received stating the Israel will consider acceding to the BWC "when the unique regional circumstances permit."

Namibia

10. On 19 October 2017, on the margins of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Ms. Linda Anne Scott, Deputy Permanent Representative of Namibia in New York in order to promote the BWC and to encourage Namibia to accede to the Convention. The representatives of Namibia described the lack of inter-ministerial coordination, which could have slowed down the accession process.

Tuvalu

11. On 18 October 2017, on the margins of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Ambassador Samuelu Laloniu, Permanent Representative of Tuvalu in New York, in order to promote the BWC and to encourage Tuvalu to join the Convention. The representative expressed interest in observing a BWC meeting. The Chairman mentioned the sponsorship programme and encouraged Tuvalu to apply without further delay to the programme.